becomes rational, fertilizer prices cannot come down. Has the Ministry got an overall policy already ready or is it under formulation?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir. the Government has already a policy framework. The present production of gas is about 48 million cubic metres per day of which 11 million cubic metres are being flared. One of the objectives is to reduce flaring to zero. For that a Rs. 7200 crores project has already been initiated, with the aid of the World Bank. Several oil and gas development projects including Neelam. Mufta, Ravva etc. with an overall investment of about Rs. 7500 crores have already been sanctioned or are in the pipeline. When these projects are implemented gas production will be raised to 80 million cubic metres per day. As of now 92 million cubic metres of gas per day stands committed including the in-principle commitments. The Government have a policy of enhancing the production, reducing the gas flaring to zero as well as streamlining the allocation including the allocation for downstream projects, synchronising the establishment of the downstream projects so that the gas which is a very important resource of the country is optimally utilised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ownership Right to Refugees in Evacuee Properties

*206. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that refugees, who came to Punjab in a wake of the partition of the country and were permitted to occupy the vacant houses belonging to those who migrated to Pakistan, have not so far been given the ownership of the houses, with the result that the ownership still lies with the Punjab Wakf Board and the rent thereof is required to be paid to the Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Board increases the rent of such properties frequently; and

(c) if so. what action Government propose to take to mitigate the hardship of the occupants of such houses so that they are not exploited by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) In terms of Section 11(1) of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950, evacuee Wakf properties vest in the Punjab Wakf Board. A displaced person occupying such property as tenant would have the same position as any other tenant *vis-a-vis* the Wakf Board and the question of Government intervention does not arise.

हल्दिया तथा कोचीन में पोत-कारखाने

*209. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एशियाई विकास बैंक ने हल्दिया तथा कोचीन में पोत-कारखाने स्थापित किये जाने की सिफारिशें की हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई योजना बनाई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर): (क) जी, नहीं। एशियाई विकास बैंक के परामर्शदाताओं ने अपनी प्रारूप रिपोर्ट में यह सुझाव दिया है कि हल्दिया और कोचीन में जहाज मरम्मत सुविधाएं स्थापित की जाएं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposals for Conversion of Metre Gauge lines in Western Railway

*210. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for conversion of several Metre Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge lines in Western and other Railway regions;

(b) the details of those proposals which have been found acceptable; and

(c) the proposals which have not been found acceptable with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A large number of proposals have been received for conversion of Metre Gauge lines to Broad Gauge all over the